

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:JFORBES:CHG

APPROVED BY IO:ROBLAKE

L/UNA:MR.MATHESON (DRAFT)

EA:MR. ZURHELLEN

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052005

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NK, UN

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES BY NORTH KOREAN
PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO U.N.

REF: USUN 278, 629

1. WE ARE CONCERNED BY PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES OF NORTH KOREAN UN OBSERVER MISSION WHICH ARE DIRECTED AT AMERICAN AUDIENCES AND APPEAR TO BE UNRELATED TO UN BUSINESS. MOST RECENT SUCH NORTH KOREAN ACTION IS ADVERTISEMENT IN MARCH 2 EDITION OF NEW YORK TIMES REPRINTING SPEECH BY NORTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM IL-SUNG. AD WAS CREDITED TO QUOTE INFORMATION SECTION, OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS UNQUOTE. NORTH KOREAN MISSION HAS ALSO ISSUED AS PRESS RELEASES PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS AND MAILED THEM FROM NEW YORK UNSOLICITED TO
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U.S.ADDRESSEES. FINALLY, NORTH KOREAN MISSION SPOKESMEN

HAVE HELD PRESS CONFERENCES, REPORTED REFTELS, AT WHICH COMMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN LIMITED TO UN-RELATED SUBJECTS. WE FOUND JANUARY 29 STATEMENTS BY NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY PERMANENT OBSERVER TO UN CORRESPONDENTS PARTICULARLY OBJECTIONABLE.

2. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ROKG HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US OVER ACTIVITIES OF NORTH KOREANS IN NEW YORK WHICH APPEAR TO BE OUTSIDE THEIR UN FUNCTIONS. UNTIL NOW WE HAVE BELIEVED WE DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT CAUSE TO WARRANT REGISTERING AN OBJECTION TO NORTH KOREAN ACTIONS. NEW YORK TIMES ADVERTISEMENT, HOWEVER, IS AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO DISSEMINATE NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA TO US AUDIENCE AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH UN.

3 USUN SHOULD APPROACH APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF UN SECRETARIAT TO EXPRESS OFFICIAL USG CONCERN OVER PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES IN US OF NORTH KOREAN PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO UN. MOST OBVIOUS EXAMPLE IS MARCH 2 ADVERTISEMENT IN NEW YORK TIMES ATTRIBUTED TO INFORMATION SECTION OF NORTH KOREAN UN MISSION. OTHER EXAMPLES WHICH MAY BE CITED ARE PRESS RELEASES SENT IN US MAIL AND HOSTILE PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON NON-UN SUBJECTS. (WE ARE NOT OBJECTING PER SE TO NORTH KOREAN PRESS CONFERENCES FOR UN CORRESPONDENTS).

4. USG REQUESTS SECRETARIAT INFORM NORTH KOREAN MISSION THAT THESE PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES ARE NOT A PROPER FUNCTION OF NORTH KOREAN UN OBSERVER MISSION PERSONNEL. IF SUCH ACTIVITIES CONTINUE US WILL BE OBLIGED TO CONSIDER WHETHER FURTHER ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN. INGERSOLL

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